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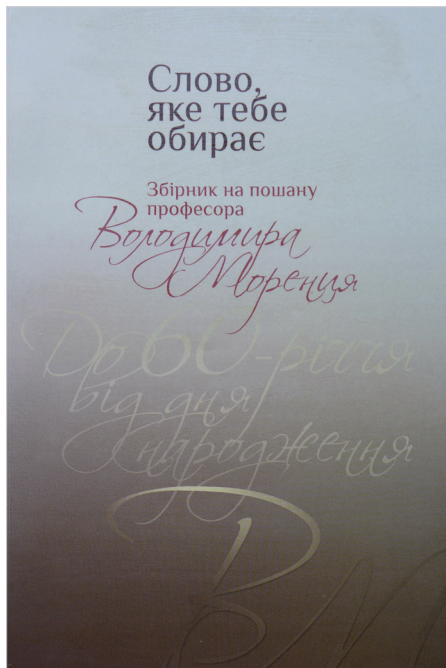
Panchenko Volodymyr, ed. *The Word that Chooses You: Festschrift in Honor of Volodymyr Morenets on his 60th Anniversary*. Kyiv: Vyd. Dim "Kyievo-Mohylianska Akademia," 2013

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Volodymyr Panchenko, ed.

*The Word that Chooses You:  
Festschrift in Honor of Volodymyr  
Morenets on his 60th Anniversary*

[*Slovo, iake tebe obyraie: Zbirnyk a poshanu profesora Volodymyra Morentsia. Do 60-richchia vid dnia narodzhennia*].

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*Reviewed by Taras Pastukh*

## Being Open to the World

Volodymyr Morenets is a symbolic figure in Ukrainian literary studies, as his literary criticism constitutes one of the greatest achievements of contemporary Ukrainian literary scholarship. On the occasion of the researcher's 60th birthday, a collection of research articles has been prepared (Volodymyr Panchenko, ed.), which, on the one hand, testifies to a demonstration of respect for Professor Morenets, and on the other hand, represents a particular segment of contemporary literary studies and shows various approaches to the perception of the literary process.

The collection consists of an interview with Volodymyr Morenets, twenty seven research essays on certain literary phenomena and trends, biographical details about Professor Morenets, a bibliography of his works for over the past ten years as well as brief profiles of the authors of the research essays. In his interview, Prof. Morenets touches upon the important milestones in his life (school, university, and teaching at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) which influenced the formation of his worldview and determined certain spiritual and professional priorities. Also, he talks about the importance of "personal emotional experience," which is the cornerstone of a proper perception of a literary work. In the field of literary study that sort of experience is combined with profound reflection, self-questioning, and a corresponding level of linguistic culture. Professor Morenets also talks about the complex connection between the word and reality/life, the universal/all-embrasive/omnibus of the human world, which leads to the rule "the way we talk or write about things is the way we live." In general, the interview creates an image of a person with a wealth of experience in sensing the word and sophisticated artistic culture; a researcher, whose self-reflection and focused thinking enable him to see a wider perspective of the literary problem and more precisely formulate

personal judgment. The interview testifies to a deep understanding of literature and methods of literary communication, and in a certain manner inspires further reflection on the issue.

The included research essays show a number of approaches concerning literary and, in a broader context, cultural phenomena. Most of the researched material belongs to the literature of the 20th century. Hence we find studies, which, based on two memoirs of Stanislaw Przybyszewski on Vasyl Stefanyk, show changes in the vision of cultural phenomena, brought about by certain social trends; analyse the perception of the figure of Petro Hulak-Artemovskiy in the literary heritage of Pavlo Fylypovych; remodel and interpret Stepan Baley's psychoanalytical views on the creative activity of Taras Shevchenko; analyze the original cinematographic views of Oleksandr Dovzhenko; present Yuri Kosach's prose in a corresponding cultural context; define the significance of Viktor Petrov in Ukrainian cultural space; look into the hard turns of destiny in the lives of Mykola Kulish, Mykola Khvylovy and Mykola Bazhan; explore the modern poetics of Vadym Lesych's poetry; trace the symbolic biblical intertextuality of Vasyl Zemliak's diology of novels *The Flock of Swans* and *The Green Mills*; on the basis of archival materials remodel the tasks of literary criticism from the point of view of Yuri Lavrinenko; study reference to folklore in the texts of the poets of the eighties; explore the compelling epic writing in Ievhen Pashkovskiy's novel *The Daily Wand*. The more general studies include research articles which explore the image of Spain in Ukrainian literature, as well as the image of the Other in the literary system of the Ukrainian immigration. The first study leads to the conclusion that the image of Spain not only reflects some peculiarities of the country, but also testifies to a certain Ukrainian cultural situation, in which some specific features of a distant country are accentuated, while others are not. The second study puts emphasis on the complicated transformation of the image of the Other, which is connected with the instability of identity in the context of immigration. A certain idiosyncrasy of the 1930s is revealed in the publication of the interrogation transcript of Mike Johansen in the State Political Directorate in the 1990s, and memoirs of Eleonora Solovei about the European writers' cruise of the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea.

The authors devote attention to other stages of development of Ukrainian literature. The ancient period is represented by studies dedicated to translated works: *The Lay of Twelve Sons of King Shakhaishi (Mamer)* (eschatological motives) and *The Tales of Akyr the Wise* (ideological and philosophical sentiments), as well as an analysis of Ioanikii Haliatovskiy's treatise *Fundamenta* as a kind of summary of the disputes about the Union of Brest. The contemporary period is represented by a mythological and symbolic interpretation of Myroslav Dochynets' novel *Vichnyk* and an overview of the poetry of Liudmyla Diadchenko, Nataliia Pasichnyk, and Iuliia Nesterova.

The included studies are not limited to the Ukrainian literary process only. The collection includes a study of American modernism, which outlines the key social and cultural issues of a certain epoch; a study of the epic theatre of Bertolt Brecht with wide cultural parallels and allusions; as well as an article about the synthesis of forms of arts in Tomas Hardy's novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

In general the presented studies expand the experience of insight into cultural phenomena, enriching the reader with cultural material as well as methods of its interpretation. The studies enable a better understanding of the trends which take place in the sphere of culture and determine the movement of creative ideas, genres etc. The majority of presented studies are

concerned with the analysis of fictional texts, an important part of which is the earlier mentioned personal emotional experience, which leads to certain forms of understanding. The collection *The Word that Chooses You* enriches the cultural experience. It shows the recipient's openness to cultural reality; an openness which springs from love for the word.